

and look at your passport, your license and tax forms and stare at the word "America" that is printed on them.

Our economy is not on the brink of collapse, but on the brink of success. As I stood here last year, banks were in trouble and weren't loaning out money. The stock market was plummeting and everyone was panicking. People were wondering how they would make it through the next year. Now the banks are stabilized and have started to give out more loans, the stock market is gaining point and people are feeling more comfortable about their future. With Unemployment still at one of its highest levels in the past century I am looking forward to working with my fellow colleagues in drafting legislation that will bring jobs back into the economy. We have almost recovered from this current recession. By the time my term in office is complete I promise that I will bring our economy out of the trouble that the previous administration created for us.

I look forward to working and helping with the new Senate and House of representatives in restoring this country to the greatness it deserves.

Thank you, God bless you and God Bless the United States of America. Thank you

ILISA OGORZALEK OF RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Mr. Speaker, Vice President BIDEN, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

During the terms you all have been in office, the United States has gone through many changes. Many changes have been for the benefit of our economy, and many have created problems for the people of America. This country has many issues that need to be resolved if we want to make this generation stronger than the ones that came before it. By having a specific short-term goal, such as having healthcare for all, and having a specific long-term goal, such as reducing the national deficit, I think the young people of this Nation will have the opportunity to thrive.

First, a short-term goal that I think would benefit America right now is having healthcare for all. Many young people's families in this country cannot afford healthcare, and their wellness is suffering with each day. To make healthcare available to all, I propose to have health insurance companies share a percent of their revenue with the government, based on their yearly income. With this money, the government can then fund designated hospitals to provide healthcare for the people who cannot afford it. This way, the people who receive healthcare through their jobs can keep it, and young people who are not fortunate enough to have it can get it through government aid.

Next, a longer-term goal that would benefit America's youth would be to decrease the national deficit. Our Nation's budget is complex and divided into many parts, and as a result of these components, we are in trillions of dollars of debt. Although it would be difficult to significantly reduce our debt in the next few years, there are some arrangements that would help lower the amount of debt we hold. For example, we could raise taxes for people who make at least half a million dollars a year. This would create an increase in tax revenue. If we could keep this increase steady and not spend more than the rate of inflation, or Nation's debt would be significantly reduced. As a result, we would be less dependent on foreign countries, such as China. Since they hold 11 percent of our debt, we could reduce this number to let our nation's money go to other important matters, such as poverty and research for illness.

Overall, this Nation has gone through many changes in the past few decades. If we

could make healthcare available to all, especially young people, and reduce the national deficit, then this generation has the opportunity to really succeed. These changes would also help improve our economy, global position, and overall wellness of the young people in America.

BRYN PHILIBERT, CHAMPLAIN VALLEY UNION
HIGH SCHOOL

My fellow Americans,

This year our country has risen out of a recession that threatened the economic stability of many Americans. We have taken great strides to restore the hope and promise America has always stood for. In 2010 we have made great progress but there is still much more to do moving forward, which is why I am taking this opportunity to address you. I am addressing you all to call to all esteemed members of Congress to step up and help me once again put the United States back on top as a world leader in democracy and peace.

Two years after the recession devastated our people, we finished this past year with an unemployment rate of 9.4 percent, down 0.6 percent from the end of 2009. Consumer and business confidence is on the rise and we have finally come to a bipartisan agreement on new tax-cut legislation. We reached a compromise to improve economic growth, help the struggling middle-class families, and business development. We have also made historic steps towards the promise of equality for all with the repealing of the ban on open homosexual service men and women in our armed forces.

This year's Health Care Reform Bill set forth legislation to expand coverage to 32 million currently uninsured Americans. Along with this, the bill allowed health care to become less expensive for people to purchase and starting in 2014 insurance companies will no longer be able to deny coverage to anyone based on pre-existing conditions. This marks the turning point that great Americans, like the late Senator Ted Kennedy, worked their entire lives for.

By August of this past year we had shrunk the number of troops in Iraq to 50,000 down from 110,000 a year ago, and we have ended all U.S. combat missions in Iraq. By the end of 2011 all American troops will be withdrawn from Iraq. There is still much to be done around the world to ensure a terror free future, but we have made substantial steps towards that goal in the past year.

America has faced challenges this year such as the oil spill in the Gulf. We have learned from this environmental crisis and we are moving forward with new knowledge on how to respond to the economic impacts of a crisis like this.

It is a known fact of American politics that U.S. politicians rarely agree in issues across the board, but I know that all of us in this room can agree that we come here every day to ensure that all American people get the opportunity to live in our great country. Now more than ever bipartisanship is going to be imperative to the achievements of the upcoming year. I urge you all, Democrats and Republicans, to work together to live up to the promise of America as our forefathers have.

Thank you.●

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA
GOSPODAREK AND STACEY
PLUMMER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate two outstanding teachers from New Hampshire.

Stacey Plummer and Angela Gospodarek have been chosen for the

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, awards that honor teachers who have made outstanding contributions to the classroom and to the teaching profession. I applaud them for their remarkable accomplishments and dedication to New Hampshire's students.

Recent international test scores show that U.S. students lag behind students of other countries in math and science achievement. Our country's competitiveness in this global economy requires us to nurture skilled engineers and scientists. Teachers like Angela and Stacey are critical to this effort because they are able to engage students and help them to develop a love for these key subjects. That is why I am delighted to see them honored for their work.

Stacey has taught a variety of high school math classes for 16 years and currently teaches at Hollis Brookline High School in Hollis, NH. Her passion for mathematics combined with her talent for teaching allows her to convey to her students the beauty and precision of the subject. In addition to advising the State championship math team, she finds time to mentor student teachers.

To make science meaningful, Angela likes to provide hands-on classroom experiences that allow her students to discover the wonders of science. She began her career as a marine scientist but soon realized she had a talent for and enjoyed teaching others. The students at Iber Holmes Gove Middle School in Raymond, NH, are fortunate to have had her as a teacher for the last 7 years.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching are the most prestigious honors given to math and science teachers in the country. As a former teacher, it is a privilege for me to be able to congratulate Angela Gospodarek and Stacey Plummer for their commitment to excellence in teaching. I am extremely proud of the part they play in educating and training future generations of Americans.●

REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE UNION DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON JANU- ARY 25, 2011—PM 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was which was ordered to lie on the table:

To the Congress of the United States:

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Vice President, Members of Congress, distinguished guests, and fellow Americans:

Tonight I want to begin by congratulating the men and women of the 112th Congress, as well as your new Speaker, JOHN BOEHNER. And as we mark this occasion, we are also mindful of the empty chair in this Chamber, and pray